

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9, 10 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Bodawala and Mackey in the July 2, 2007 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the Examiner's Interview Summary incorrectly recites "nm" instead of --mm-- as discussed and recited in the claims.

To address the Examiner's concerns raised during the personal interview, claim 12 is amended to recite "a thickness of the die is 15 to 30 mm," which is consistent with the specification on page 3, line 14.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 4,373,895) in view of Inoue (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,431); rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto or Inoue in view of Masaaki (JP2000-326318); and rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Yamamoto or Inoue in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,193,497). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

With respect to independent claim 7, and as discussed at the personal interview, Yamamoto and Inoue, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a die for forming a honeycomb body, including curved portions that are formed at four corners of a peripheral portion of the die and a radius of curvature of the curved portions is 0.5 to 1.5 mm, as recited in independent claim 7.

The Office Action acknowledges that Yamamoto fails to disclose curved portions which are formed at the four corners of peripheral portions of the die and cites to Inoue to

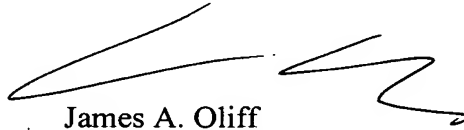
cure those deficiencies. However, Inoue fails to cure the deficiencies of Yamamoto because Inoue is directed to non-analogous art. As discussed and agreed to during the personal interview, Inoue is directed towards the formed structural honeycomb body and fails to disclose the particular features of any die.

Therefore, Yamamoto and Inoue, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a die for forming a honeycomb body including curved portions that are formed at four corners of a peripheral portion of the die and a radius of curvature of the curved portion is 0.5 to 1.5 mm, as recited in independent claim 7. In accordance with the above remarks, independent claim 7 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 9, 10 and 12 depend from independent claim 7 and are patentable for the same reasons, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 7, 9, 10 and 12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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